



Legalize Your Backyard Cottage

Effective December 4, 2009, backyard cottages are allowed citywide. Backyard cottages are also known as detached accessory dwelling units or DADUs. Prior to the 2009 legislation, backyard cottages were allowed only in southeast Seattle neighborhoods.

Included in the backyard cottage legislation is a “grace period” that allows owners of existing, unauthorized backyard cottages the opportunity to legalize their unit without penalty. Owners have until **June 30, 2010** to apply for a building permit and until **December 31, 2010** to obtain final inspection of the unit.

Why should I legalize my unit?

Owners who submit for a building permit before June 30, and receive a final inspection before December 30, 2010, will not be subject to violation penalties. Owners who do not take advantage of this grace period opportunity and are found to be in violation may be subject to civil penalties including per-day penalties and a one-time penalty of \$5,000.

Permit fees for backyard cottages will vary. It often takes several weeks to obtain a permit, so please plan accordingly. For information on permit requirements for backyard cottages, please see Client Assistance Memo (CAM) 116B, Establishing a Backyard Cottage.

More Information

Additional information on permit requirements for backyard cottages can be found on the project website, www.seattle.gov/dpd/BackyardCottages, or by contacting the Applicant Service Center (ASC) at (206) 684-8850.

For further information about legalizing a backyard cottage that is currently occupied by tenants, please contact: Diane Davis, dianec.davis@seattle.gov.



City of Seattle
Department of Planning and Development